

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action dated September 8, 2004, which has been made FINAL, the Examiner again rejected Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-19, 21-23 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Relph (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,171) in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,305). The Examiner further objected to Claims 5, 9-14, 20 and 24-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicants amend Claims 5 and 20 to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable, in respective cancelled Claims 1 and 16. More specifically, independent Claim 1 and the subject matter of cancelled intervening Claims 2 and 4 have been incorporated into amended Claim 5 and, similarly, the subject matter of cancelled independent Claim 16 and cancelled intervening Claims 17 and 19 have been incorporated in amended Claim 20. Respectfully, no new matter is being entered by the amendment to the claims herein.

Applicants respectfully seek allowance of amended Claims 5 and 20 indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the present Office Action.

Furthermore, the dependencies of Claims 3, 6-8, and 15 have been amended in accordance with the cancellation of Claims 1-2 and similarly, the dependencies of Claims 18, 21-23 and 28 have been amended in accordance with the cancellation of Claims 16-17.

Applicants, under separate cover, will file a continuation application in further pursuit of cancelled independent Claims 1 and 16.

In view of the foregoing remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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